

DECISION NOTICE

FOR

AMENDMENT 3

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST PLAN

Chavez, Eddy, Lincoln, and Otero counties, New Mexico

September 1988

Chavez, Eddy, Lincoln, and Otero counties

New Mexico

The Regional Forester decided on October 31, 1986, to implement the Lincoln National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan (the plan), and it became effective on November 30, 1986. The regulations governing preparation of the Plan recognized the need to change and update it as time goes on, and gave Forest Supervisors the authority to approve nonsignificant changes.

I have decided to amend the plan by changing the standards and guidelines for management of the Sacramento Mountain salamander. Replacement pages containing the changes are attached. They should be inserted into existing copies of the plan at pages 39 and 206.

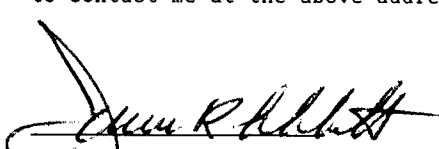
It is necessary to amend the plan because the standards and guidelines originally contained in the plan do not accomplish their intent, and the implication that they provide adequate protection for the salamander is misleading. The statements which are being replaced restrict yarding of unutilizable material in areas of occupied habitat, require leaving logs and slash after logging and avoiding prescribed burning, and limit harvest of timber in occupied habitat to times when the animals are underground (winter logging).

It now appears that, although downed logs, stumps, and slash are important to the salamander, reduction of tree canopy is the factor which generally limits survival in stands managed for timber. Accordingly, I am changing the standards and guidelines to require the use of the Integrated Resource Management (IRM) process in occupied habitats.

Integrated Resource Management objectives are realized through consideration of the effects of activities on all resources. In the case of the Sacramento Mountain salamander, IRM may involve identifying occupied and potential sites, relating the placement of cutting units to these sites, and selecting prescriptions to maintain desired stand characteristics.

I have determined through environmental analysis that this action will have no significant effect upon the physical, biological or social environment. Therefore, I am categorically excluding it from further analysis as per 40 CFR 1508.4, the implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act. This amendment will be implemented immediately.

This decision is subject to administrative review pursuant to the provisions of 36 CFR 211.18. Notice of appeal must be made in writing and submitted to me, Lincoln National Forest, 11th and New York, Alamogordo, New Mexico, 88310, within 45 days of this decision. I encourage interested parties to contact me at the above address to discuss their concerns before submitting an appeal.

  
JAMES F. ABBOTT  
Forest Supervisor

SEP 30 1988

Date